SKEET'S FAN FORUM

#1 FREE!

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SKEET'S FAN FORUM Vol. 1, No. 1 is Happy Face Publication #71 and is copyright © by Steve Keeter. This zine is published approximately bi-monthly and is available for FREE this time, but 50¢ an issue beginning with #2 (Subscription rate: 4 issues for $2.00) from Steve Keeter/ 1003 E. Amelia St./ Orlando, Fl. 32803. This issue is dedicated to Jim Pack for his titanic efforts at helping fandom to achieve the respectability and recognition in the graphics art community to which it aspires today.
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SKEET BLEETS

What? What's going on here? What's this?

Well, since you asked (you did ask, didn't you?), this is the first issue of SKEET'S FAN FORUM-- a combination personalzine/ letter-and-discussion zine. It's based on a concept I was playing around with for awhile in the mid-'70s, when I published three installments of a fanzine called LOC (standing for Letters Of Comment) or TRUE PHAN PHORUM. The zine appeared as a zine-within-a-zine inside the pages of MANTRA #2 and TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS! (THE UFO NEWSLETTER) #38 (Vol. 3, #10); and as a publication all by itself in 1974. A fourth installment, with letters over a decade old, finally appeared in the pages of DYNAMITE #10 in 1987.

The concept behind SKEET'S FAN FORUM is a simple one: This zine serves as a forum for comics, sf, and fantasy fans to get together and discuss their attitudes, opinions, and ideas concerning any aspects of their favorite hobbies they might feel like rambling on about. In other words, you send me a letter, talking about whatever fannish subject you'd like, and I'll print it. After I publish the initial letters received, in SFF #2, subsequent letters may deal with the topics already introduced, or they may present new topics

for discussion. SFF is your fanzine and you dictate the flow of the discussion.

Aaaaannnnddd, every letterwriter receives a free copy of the issue in which his/her tirade appears. There's nothing to lose by writing, and a free fanzine to gain!

Of course, future issues will be somewhat larger than this one, as might be imagined from all the zillions of missives expected-- but I'll try to hold those down at 50¢ per copy for as long as possible (that is, for those of you who'd rather read the commentary than participate in it). The potential for a really meaty, absorbing and even controversial product is limitless, as was proven by the scores of enthusiastic fan letters that came this way during those letterzine days of Fandom Past. But, this time, with a regular schedule, and a fandom that's more organized and larger than ever before, I'm anticipating an even greater response.

So, don't let me down, people. Drop me a line and let's hear what you have to say about comics or fandom or movies or whatever you'd like to examine. You want to discuss censorship? Sure, let's go at it. Is there a particular fanzine or editor or fandom group you'd like to praise or defame? Let's hear about it! The subjects that are available in a fannish universe are as diverse and interesting as the fans themselves.

I'll be acting as sort of a mediator for all this business, occasionally interjecting my own comments and subtly directing the flow of the debate. I'll be encouraging honest and open dialogue, but discouraging feuding.

If you'd like to be a part of the second issue of this title, drop me a line before July 20th, 1988. I'll be looking forward to your letters!

PLUG TIME

As this is the first issue, and I have yet to receive any juicy commentary from Fandom At Large, I'll just ramble on a bit, plug a few of my fave zines, and slander some good people.

I've been receiving this extraordinary news and reviewszine called FACTSHEET FIVE for about a year now, from Mike Gunderloy, a gifted reviewer who must spend as much time reading fanzines as he does breathing. I mean, this mag (8½"x11" newsprint) is loaded with literally hundreds of entertaining and informative critiques of a bottomless well of fanzines from a number of different fandoms: rock and other musical fandoms, sf, comics, various subversive and political fandoms, cassette and computer fandoms, and on and on. Each issue is an enjoyable read and you can spend hours perusing its fascinating contents. It's $2.00 an issue, but you can probably get a freebie by sending your own publication in for review. Order from: Mike Gunderloy/ 6 Arizona Ave./ Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502.

TIM CORRIGAN'S COMICS AND STUFF #1 comes from, you guessed it, the inimitable Tim Corrigan and contains... surprise!... no comics. What it does have is an excellent short fantasy story by Faye Perozich, which deals with the return to Earth of the kind of fire-breathing dragons that inhabit our literature and which, this tale asserts, perhaps once dominated our planet. It also contains a wonderful article by the editor, in which he discusses the crude homemade comics he produced (like so many of us) as a kid, prior to his discovery of fandom. Finally, it contains six pages of letters, written by well-wishing fans in response to Tim's necessary cancellation of SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION. These letters prove that, in spite of what Kevin Collier and a handful of mean-spirited and unappreciative fans may have said recently, the great majority of fandom still respects Tim Corrigan and realizes the debt of gratitude we owe him for supporting, expanding, and holding together the vast network of small press for two years with SPCE. You can do a little to pay him back for that support by sending $1.00 ppd. to Tim at 45 Wilcox St./ Rochester, NY 14607 and ordering his COMICS AND STUFF.

David Cushman publishes an interesting conglomeration of reviews, interviews, letters, and art called VISIONS. #3 features an interview with Ian Shires and some genuinely thought-provoking letters and editorializing. There's some good debate here, especially as regards the merits or non-merits of super-hero comics. This is one good deal at only 50¢ ppd. from David Cushman/ One Man Publishing/ 42 Stoughton Rd./ East Windsor, CT. 06088.

THE COMIC BOOK NEWSLETTER continues under the expert production of editor Jim Pack. If you haven't been ordering this title, shame on you! It's a beautiful zine, and the most appealing of all the crop of fannish news and reviewzines that have popped up since the demise of SPCE (In point of fact, Jim's NEWSLETTER was around before SPCE, so I screwed up that last sentence... but this is my fanzine and if I want to screw up, use bad syntax, print inaccuracies, etc. etc. I can do it!).

Uh... huh? Kinda went off on a tangent there a little. But, this is my fanzine * and if I want to go off on a tangent, etc. etc. etc.

* OKAY, OKAY, SO I SAID IT WAS YOUR FANZINE BEFORE. WELL, IT'S MINE, TOO!

Anyway, order THE COMIC BOOK NEWSLETTER from Jim Pack/ Rocket Comics/ 1112 Bellwood Dr./ Loveland, OH/ 45140. It's $1.00 per issue and well worth it.

DUNGAR THE BARBARIAN #23 is now available from Ian Shires and Dimestore Stories Productions/ 17914 N. Inlet Drive/ Strongsville, OH 44136 for a mere 60¢ plus a stamp. I haven't been following this much-touted series in the past, but I hear that earlier issues were very well written and very badly drawn. Well, this issue is very well written and very well drawn. DUNGAR is a mini and the original art was done actual size, which is a liability, but illustrator Earl Geier does a commendable job of overcoming the limitations of the format presented to him. The inks remind me a lot of Klaus Janson, and that's a compliment. There's humor, adventure, and an intriguing plotline as well. Nifty little comic.

The best thing about Steve Shipley's MORNINGSTAR COMICS #2 is the stunning air-brushed Allen Freeman frontcover. The worst thing is the interior copy job which fails to delete all those ugly paste-up lines. Very, very unusual for a Shipley publication to appear so hastily assembled-- I suspect this was Steve's experiment at trying a less expensive mode of reproduction. Go back to offset, Steve! There are two strips in thish, "The Revenge of Dynamice" by Shipley and SKeeter, which I am obviously biased towards, and a bit of madness by Luisa Felix featuring her "Comic Cats" Frenzy and Mellow. Luisa also contributes a nicely rendered backcover study of Steve McQueen. This fanzine is notable as the very first book to bear the symbol of the new Pizazz Comics co-op. I don't see a price, but $1.00 ought to get you a copy. Order from Steve Shipley/ 2157 Glenwood Ave./ Toledo, OH 43620.

The prolific Steve Shipley also publishes an occasional newsletter "presenting a Christian perspective on comics, cartooning, & the graphic arts." A typical issue of WARRIOR runs about six pages and boasts superlative layout, top-notch artwork, a letter column, and a number of interesting article/commentaries. WARRIOR is free from the address listed above, but donations of $1.00 or so are accepted and I heartily encourage them. A worthwhile endeavor, and enthralling, even if you're not religiously inclined.

PIZAZZ COMICS UNLIMITED is the official newsletter for the new Pizazz Comics co-op. This is, as you may have heard, the group started by Steve Shipley (Sheesh! Does that guy get around! Hey, Steve, do you ever sleep?!) as a reaction to alleged injustice within the UFO. Pizazz members abide by a strict code of morality, detailed in the latest issue of their newsletter (#2), restricting the content of their zines and forbidding nudity, profanity, drugs, and excessive bloodletting in same. It's a tough code to adhere to, but, if you think you can, and you'd like to help this promising new fan organization establish themselves in today's often unjust and profane fandom, you can get the inside scoop on joining by contacting Steve Shipley at his address above. In the meantime, you can order the Pizazz newsletter by sending Steve $7.00 for a six-issue, bi-monthly subscription.

"Here's the blockbuster you've been clamoring for!! In this, the Arvel Age of Comics!" Hahaha! So begins Carl Taylor's hilarious new mini-comic CAPTAIN GOOD. John Q. Righteous becomes a super-hero after eating a genetically altered applie pie and springs into action against the nefarious Mean Man. This villain is so nasty, he does stuff like putting hot sauce in a cat's litter box, causing an unfortunate feline to explode from within at an embaressing moment, offering candy to a little boy and then eating it himself as the poor lad cries, and bathing attacking police officers with his disgusting diarrhea ray! Mightyrat tries to intervene, but is eaten by Super Kat, who is, in turn, devoured by Mightydog (on break from one of his commercials). This book will have you rolling on the floor. There's no price on it, but I imagine 50¢ and a stamp will get you a copy. Order from Carl Taylor and FreshWave Comics/ PO Box 76494/ Los Angeles, CA 90076.

HEY! GUESS WHO STOPPED BY FOR LUNCH!

Dan Burke is here! And, the best part of him joining us for lunch is... he's buying the pizza and Pepsi! Gee, that Dan-- what a swell guy. In fact, I'd like to invite all of

you over to Dan's place in Daytona for pizza the next time you're in Florida. I'm certain Dan won't mind. Oh yeah, and bring your Mom and Dad and all those brothers and sisters, too. No problem, right Dan? Dan?

FROM DAN BURKE: I'm glad to be here and thank you for the gracious introduction. I'm here sitting in the east wing of Steve's home here in lush Orlando, Florida. We are sitting in a hot tub sipping ice cold zinfandel and talking fanzines. Steve, it has been a pleasure to meet you and Cindy and can't wait to get together again.

Back to SKeeter: Heh, that Dan Burke, what a card. If you think his remarks here were strange, you should order a copy of his outrageous ARTMEN. It's a 24-page, lovingly-crafted and side-splitingly funny parody of that popular WATCHMEN series. Great stuff, and it's only $1.50 ppd from Dan Burke/ Apt. 241/ 1400 S. Nova Rd./ Daytona, Fl. 32014.

The story of my acquaintance with Dan is an interesting one. Dan was one of the people who ordered my original line of OM and MANTRA fanzines way back in the early '70s. He gafiated ("gafia" is a fan term seldom used these days, which stands for Getting Away From It All-- dropping out of fandom) in the latter part of that decade, as I was ultimately to do also. I returned to fandom, at Jim Main's urging, in late 1984/early 1985. Sometime during 1987, Dan came across a copy of SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION in some comic shop or other-- and was surprised and delighted to find that fandom was still around and doing better than ever. He was also startled to come across my name listed in connection with one of my more recent pubs and the address-- Orlando, Florida. Could this Steve Keeter living only about 45 minutes away from Dan's place be that same old fan who knocked out all those crude zines in runny purple ditto from a base in Edenton, North Carolina way back when? Well, sure, of course it was. I must say, I was every bit as surprised and happy to hear from Dan after so many years as he was to rediscover fandom.

And, anyone who says SPCE never did anything good is out of his ornery mind!

JUST ONE MORE THING BEFORE I GO

The Chicago Convention is coming up again this July 1-3. I'll be there, along with Jim Main, Tim Corrigan, Jim Pack, Jeff Wood, Wade Busby, and scores of other enthusiastic fanzine editors and publishers. It'd be a blast to see you there too! Lots of fun is expected to be had by all.

Anyway, I'll letcha know how it went next issue.

Keep smilin' everybody... and WRITE!

Best,

SKEETER

Steve Keeter 5/21/88

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THE UNITED FANZINE ORGANIZATION CHECKLIST

CAPTAIN SAUCER #19: 90¢ from Doug Holverson/ Leonine Press/ 2800 College Rd./ Rm. #315/ Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501. Space-riding hilarious socially satirical genius!

EPITAPH #2: $1.00 from Larry Nibert/ 2880 W. Ball Rd. Apt. J12/ Anaheim, CA 92804 First new issue in 12 years! Nibert! Pack! Blake!

HEROIC #3 and #4: $1.00 for #3, 85¢ for #4 from Tom Fellrath/ Phoenix Productions/ 1 Pheasant Hill Run/ W. Boylston, MA 01583. Comics and interviews and art.

PANTHEON #3: $1.00 from Wade Busby/ Archetype Media/ 4028 54th Ave.SW/ Seattle, WA 98116 One of the most refreshingly original alternative press books on the market.

DITKOMANIA #23: 98¢ from Bill Hall/ 10 Farm Hill Rd./ Middletown, CT 06457. GREAT Tom Ahearn/ Brian Waters strip this issue!

APPFSZT! #18: $2.00 from Jim Main/ Flying Pig Publications/125 Fort Hill St. #3/ New Milford, CT 06776. Best issue yet of one of fandom's undeniably finest titles.

STIGMATA MARTYR #6: 75¢ from Bob Kozlowski/ Kozmik Comix/ 16 W 720 56th Pl/ Clarendon Hills, IL 60514. Elliot Some's bizarre sf/fantasy hero.

SYNAPSE SHOWCASE #2: $1.89 from Matt Kanaracus/ Synapse Comics/ 821 Pleasant St./ Worcester, MA 01602. 44 pages. 15 talented contributors. One meaty small press book!

ZEB #1: $1.39 from Rob Sturma/ Tangent Press/ 15478 Biscayne Dr./ South Bend, IN 46635. "The 'White Issue...' Not unlike the Beatles' White Album!"

TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS! (THE UFO NEWSLETTER): $1.75 from Jeff Wood/ PO Box 95198/ Seattle, WA 98145-2198.